



December 1, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Katherine White and I am the Executive Director of a low-cost immigration law office, the Immigrant Connection, in Grand Rapids, MI. Here at the Immigrant Connection, we get to interact with and serve Refugees from around the world daily. We have been fortunate enough to learn of their generosity, grace, and grit first-hand as they seek refuge in a new country and work tirelessly to make it their home. As a legal practitioner, I am familiar with the thorough security screening process for refugees and am concerned that this resolution would create an irrational and unfounded fear of a vulnerable group and create more division and anxiety in our communities. The reality is that there is already a strict and effective process for security screening refugees that are to be resettled in Michigan. To discredit the great work that is already being done here, without any previous violations of the security or local consultation provisions of the Refugee Act of 1980 by all involved agencies or actors in the resettlement process, would be harmful to not only refugees who have come here to escape hardship, but to all residents of Michigan who benefit economically, culturally and socially from the resettlement of refugees in our state. It has been a joy and an honor to work with Refugees here at the Immigrant Connection and we urge you to oppose HCR 28 for the good of our community.

Sincerely,

Katherine D White
Executive Director &
Board of Immigration Appeals Representative
Immigrant Connection at City Life Church
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